

WHO FINDS WHITE PARTRIDGE-BERRIES?—So far as we know, or ever heard of, only Miss Kate Fisher Kurtz, of York, Penn., who sends us fresh plants. The berries are as white as those of *Chiogenes*, and form a fine contrast with the red ones. It was found in a single patch, in the midst of the ordinary form. The albinism affects even the corolla, the tip of which in bud lacks the purple or rose tinge of the ordinary buds.—A. GRAY.

*SALIX BALSAMIFERA*, BARRATT, = *S. CORDATA*, VAR. *BALSAMIFERA*, HOOK., AN OLDER NAME FOR *S. PYRIFOLIA*, ANDERS —It is an interesting fact, proven by a specimen preserved in the Herbarium of the Philadelphia Academy, that this Willow was collected “on the banks of the Ammonoosuck, White Hills, New Hampshire,” by Mr. H. Little, as long ago as 1823! Occurring mainly between New Brunswick and Lake Winnipeg—a geographical representative of *S. pyrolæfolia* of a corresponding distribution in Eastern Siberia—it is remarkable that this species has been so rarely found within our northern boundary. Only two stations can be recorded, viz; the one above mentioned, which Mr Pringle is confident will be rediscovered; the other near Flint, Michigan, where Dr. D. Clarke collected specimens a few years ago, but unfortunately the plants were destroyed soon after; the besom of agricultural improvement sweeping so clean that not a vestige, root or branch, was left. Doubtless other localities will be found, especially in the cold peat bogs of northern New England along the St. John, in northern Michigan, &c., and it appears desirable, therefore, that a species coming more and more into notice as an addition to our Flora of the Northern States, should receive without further delay its older and rightful name of *S. balsamifera*, Barratt. Conscious that the opinion of an amateur, a mere private in the ranks (and not of the “regular service” at that), must in itself carry little weight as opposed to the *ipse dixit* of a botanist of the commanding position and commanding ability of Prof. Andersson I may be pardoned, I hope, for strengthening my assertion by the following statement of facts.

In the Columbia College (Torrey) Herbarium there is luckily a fasciculus marked in the handwriting of Dr. Torrey, “Ex herb. Hooker. Willows from British America studied and named by Dr. Barratt before the publication of that portion of the Flora Boreali-Americana containing the *Salices*.” The tickets are in the handwriting of Dr. Barratt. No. 53 of this collection comprises the following specimens, viz: mature leaves from “Cumberland House, *Drummond*”; fertile

aments from "Lake Winnipeg, Richardson." These specimens although brought together from widely sundered stations, are rightly mated even to the mature leaves, and show that the character of the species was clearly understood; they represent *S. balsamifera*, Barratt, so completely in flower, fruit and foliage that there can be no room for doubt as to what Dr. Barratt regarded as the type of his species; and furthermore there is just as little uncertainty that *S. pyrifolia*, Anders. is a recent name for the same plant.

It is to be regretted that after so clearly indicating a distinct species Dr. Barratt—in his desire, I imagine, to dispose in some way of all the material placed in his hands—should have followed his type specimens with leaves only of *S. discolor* from "Cumberland House, Drummond" as "54 var. *intermedia*"; and leaves only of *S. petiolaris* as "55 var. *angustifolia*." But it is a rule that the including under varieties what belongs to other species does not affect the validity of the species itself, and it should be borne in mind that while the type specimens present a complete and unmixed series of flowers, fruit and leaves, the varieties so-called are shown by *leaves only*. That *S. balsamifera* must have been represented by equivalent specimens in the Hookerian herbarium goes with the saying, otherwise the reduction to *S. cordata* in the Flora Boreali-Americana becomes *absolutely inexplicable*. Yet Andersson in his *Salices Boreali-Americanae*, p. 20, remarks, "*Quantum e speciminibus in herb. Hook. judicare possum S. balsamifera, ejus ramus foliis tectus tantum adest, ad S. acatifolium, W. pertinet.*" And he then goes on to describe the leaves as about 4 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch wide, sharply serrate, etc. Now there is *only one such specimen* in the Kew herbarium and that is like No. 55 above mentioned; leaves only of *S. petiolaris* and marked "B"; the rest are all (for there is no equivalent of No. 54 in the Kew set) designated as the typical forms of *S. balsamifera* and on the sheet is written "*S. cordata, fide Andersson, 1857.*" The leaves vary from an inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width and are very similar to forms collected by the Rev. James Fowler in New Brunswick.

A friend, whose opinion is entitled to the utmost consideration, has suggested that the Kew specimens were probably returned before Andersson recognized in the collections of Bourgeau his *S. pyrifolia* and that Barratt's No. 53 was overlooked or forgotten. Still in this view of the case it is strange that we have a description in detail of the leaves of *S. petiolaris* in the Kew herb., and finally a reduction of *S. balsamifera* to *S. discolor* (in DC. Prod.) and never a word regard-

ing the full type series of specimens; for if these were known to the author, and deemed *S. cordata* in 1857, it would naturally be supposed that *S. balsamifera* would be left where it was placed by Hooker, even if the same plant were on another page described as a new species. It is clear that in restoring Barratt's name we are simply doing what Prof. Andersson would, or should, have done had not this oversight occurred.

P. S. I have just received a letter from Mr Pringle announcing the discovery of *S. balsamifera* in the White Mountains; not, however, on the banks of the Ammonoosuc, where search was first made in vain, but on the Saco, where specimens were collected June 13th, having immature fertile aments and the characteristic Amelanchier-like leaves.—M. S. BEBB.

CAREX COMOSA. Boott.—On the 5th of July I collected, in the edge of the salt meadows, near Newark, N. J., a single specimen of a remarkable abnormal form of *Carex comosa*. The upper part of the culm is very slender, and bears three sessile spikes, each subtended by a long, very slender bract. Spikes four to eight inches apart, all pistillate except at the apex, where they have empty staminate scales. Upper spike loosely compound, its divisions sessile, and subtended by long (some 1½ inches) bristle shaped bracts, these becoming successively shorter, as their spikelets decrease in size, until they pass into the ordinary scales of the spike.—H. H. RUSBY.

POTAMOGETON.—By the will of the late Dr. J. W. Robbins, of Uxbridge, Mass., all his collections of the genus *Potamogeton* have been sent to Rev. Thos. Morong, of Ashland, Mass., for arrangement and distribution. Mr. Morong is preparing not only to do this but proposes to do some work of revision. As this will be of great use we would urge that botanists over the country send Mr. Morong specimens of the species for examination, especially any unusual forms, as a good deal of new material is already in hand for a general revision of the genus.—J. M. C.

DICHOGAMY IN RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM.—The writer does not know whether the above fact has been recorded or not, but it may be news to some. It was noticed this year in a study of the above species that the stamens mature first and are ready to shed their pollen before the pistil is even stigmatic. After a while the pistils mature and receive their pollen from other flowers through the agency of insects.—J. M. C.